

-- FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE --

PENNSYLVANIA FUTURE PROBLEM SOLVING PROGRAM ANNOUNCES 2019 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE QUALIFIERS

MAY 1, 2019



PENNSYLVANIA
FUTURE PROBLEM SOLVING PROGRAM

The Pennsylvania Future Problem Solving Program (PAFPSP) is pleased to announce that four Global Issues Problem Solving (GIPS) teams from the state have successfully secured invitations to the 2019 Future Problem Solving Program International (FPSP) Conference from June 5-9, at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

The FPSP Conference will host over 2,000 problem solvers for their annual competition. These 4-12 grade students have earned a highly-coveted invitation to the conference by displaying expertise in the creative problem-solving process and futuristic thinking during the PAFPSP Affiliate Bowl, held this year from April 26-27, in Camp Hill, PA. These young leaders are preparing to solve global problems.

Three teams from the West Jefferson Hills School District, from the suburbs of Pittsburgh, and one team from the Neshaminy School District, from the suburbs of Philadelphia, will be charged to tackle potential de-extinction problems set 20-30 years into the future. These teams must research all aspects of the topic to be prepared for competitive events where a futuristic scene relating to the topic of "De-Extinction" will be analyzed and addressed.

PAFPSP Affiliate Director, Samantha Wheeler, a former PAFPSP competitor, shares her joy in extending invitations to the PA qualifiers, "These sixteen students embody the epitome of a Future Problem Solver. Their ability to create futuristic solutions while using research and the six-step process is truly unparalleled. Learning these techniques now will prove to be invaluable in their professional lives, and I couldn't be more pleased to have them, along with their stellar coaches, represent PA at this year's International Conference."

WINNING TEAMS:

JUNIOR DIVISION (GRADES 4-6)

Pleasant Hills Middle School, West Jefferson Hills School District

Team: Natalie Borneman, Alison Chalovich, Callie Dailey, Jenna Lyons

Coach: Andrew Capretto

MIDDLE DIVISION (GRADES 7-9)

Pleasant Hills Middle School, West Jefferson Hills School District

Team: Kayleigh Johnson, Celina McElhinny, Caraline Sommer, Joyce Xu

Coach: Andrew Capretto

SENIOR DIVISION (GRADES 10-12)

Thomas Jefferson High School, West Jefferson Hills School District

Team: Mirza Ahmad, Taylor Gaito, Samuel Richard, Liam Woodward

Coach: Andrew Capretto

Neshaminy High School, Neshaminy School District

Team: Steven Buffardi, Sanskaar Gupta, Jenna Kaufman, Olivia Willard

Coach: Joe Pimble

ABOUT FUTURE PROBLEM SOLVING PROGRAM INTERNATIONAL (FPSP):

FPSP, a non-profit organization established in 1974, has grown into an international academic program challenging students to think creatively and futuristically. Since its inception, the program has grown to include students from 32 states and 18 countries. Hundreds of thousands of students participate each year through competitive and non-competitive school programs that use FPSP to enhance curriculum through critical and creative thinking.